

I claim as my invention:

1 1. A method of disrupting the activities of ants in an ant
2 mound having an ant mound upper surface, the method comprising the
3 steps of:

4 providing a quantity of one of: ice, snow and snowice;
5 placing the quantity of ice onto an ant mound upper surface;
6 and permitting the quantity of ice to remain as the ice melts,
7 such that the ice and cold water dripping from the ice lower the
8 temperature of the ant mound upper surface to create a sustained
9 low temperature on the ant mound upper surface and thereby disrupt
10 the activities of ants in the ant mound.

1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the quantity of ice
2 comprises at least one of: snow, snowice, ice slush, crushed ice,
3 chopped ice and an ice block.

1 3. The method of claim 1, comprising the additional steps
2 of:

3 placing a first spacer element formed at least in part of ice
4 on one of: the quantity of ice and the ant mound upper surface;

5 and placing an ice block on top of the first spacer element;
 such that the quantity of ice receives heat from the ant mound
and melts faster than the ice block and such that the first spacer
element melts and subsequently permits the ice block to drop onto
the ant mound upper surface to extend ice contact time on the ant
mound.

1 4. The method of claim 3, comprising the additional steps
2 of:

3 placing a second spacer element formed at least in part of ice
4 on top of the ice block;

5 and placing an additional ice block on top of the second
6 spacer element;

7 such that the additional ice block drops onto the ant mound
8 after the second spacer element melts, to further extend ice
9 contact time on the ant mound.

1 5. The method of claim 1, additionally comprising the step
2 of selecting the duration of ice melting on the ant mound, by
3 selecting a volume, size and shape of ice pieces and spacer
4 elements in relation to ambient temperature.

1 6. The method of claim 1, wherein the ant mound is located
2 in soil contained within a flower pot having a flower pot base and
3 a flower pot base, and wherein the quantity of ice is placed onto
4 the soil within the flower pot and also is placed around of the
5 flower pot base periphery.

1 7. The method of claim 1, comprising the additional steps
2 of:

 suspending a quantity of ice over an ant mound with time
release means such that the quantity of ice drops onto the ant
mound after a certain length of time.

1 8. An ice block mold apparatus for forming an ice block for
2 placement onto an ant mound having a certain general ant mound size
3 and shape, comprising:

4 a mold side wall contoured to define an internal mold cavity
5 with an inward bulge structure;

6 and mold opening for releasing a formed ice block from the
7 mold;

8 such that filling said ice block mold with water and then
9 freezing the water produces an ice block having an inward
10 depression formed by said inward bulge structure which fits over
11 and around the ant mound, enclosing the ant mound while the ice
12 block melts.

1 9. The apparatus of claim 8, wherein said inward bulge
2 structure has substantially the size and shape of the ant mound.

1 10. A method of providing an ant free area, comprising the
2 steps of:

3 placing a ground cover sheet onto a selected area of ground;

4 depositing a line of ice along perimeter of the ground cover
5 sheet in a closed loop to define an ant barrier enclosing the
6 desired ant free area.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein the ice is one of: snow,
snowice, ice slush, crushed ice and chopped ice.

1 12. The method of claim 10, wherein the ground cover sheet is
2 a flexible sheet of a suitable size for supporting a human
3 observer.

1 13. An ice suspension apparatus for suspending a quantity of
2 ice over an ant mound, said apparatus comprising:

3 an ice suspension structure including a tubular retaining wall
4 having an open suspension structure upper end and having an open
5 suspension structure lower end for fitting around an ant mound;

6 and ice suspension means for retaining the quantity of ice a
7 distance above the ant mound.

1 14. The apparatus of claim 13, wherein said quantity of ice
2 is an ice block and wherein said ice suspension means comprises a
3 progressive taper in said retaining wall inwardly in a downward
4 direction such that an ice block of suitable size can be fitted
5 through said open suspension structure upper end and lowered until
6 the ice block wedges within the tapering retaining wall a distance
7 above the ant mound.

1 15. The apparatus of claim 13, wherein said quantity of ice
2 comprises a first ice block and wherein said open suspension
3 structure upper end comprises a retaining wall upper rim and
4 wherein said first ice block suspension means comprises an ice
5 block support bracket engaging said retaining wall upper rim, said
6 bracket projecting radially inwardly from said retaining wall upper
7 rim;

8 such that a first ice block may be fitted onto said block
9 support bracket and thereby suspended above the ant mound until the
10 first ice block melts enough to be released from suspension and
11 drops onto the ant mound.

1 16. The apparatus of claim 13, wherein said first ice block
2 has a first ice block lower surface with a first ice block groove
3 and wherein said first ice block support bracket has an upward hook
4 segment for fitting into the first ice block groove for more
5 securely engaging the first ice block.

1 17. The apparatus of claim 14, additionally comprising a
2 spacer element formed of ice and a second ice block positioned
3 above said first ice block engaged by said ice suspension means,
4 and spaced above said first ice block with said spacer element
5 resting on top of said first ice block, said second ice block
6 resting on said spacer element.

1 18. The apparatus of claim 15, additionally comprising a
2 spacer element formed of ice and a second ice block positioned
3 above said first ice block engaged by said ice suspension means,
4 and spaced above said first ice block with said spacer element
5 resting on top of said first ice block, said second ice block
6 resting on said spacer element.

1 19. The apparatus of claim 17, wherein said spacer elements
2 comprise upright ice cylinders.

1 20. The apparatus of claim 18, wherein said spacer elements
2 comprise upright ice cylinders.

1 21. The apparatus of claim 14, wherein said quantity of ice
2 comprises:

3 a first ice block for placement on an ant mound;
4 a spacer element formed of ice resting on top of said first
5 ice block;
6 and a second ice block resting on top of said spacer element.

1 22. The apparatus of claim 21, additionally comprising an
2 insulated, time release capsule contained within one of said ice
3 blocks.

23. The method of claim 2, comprising the additional step of:
embedding a quantity of controlled substance in said ice block
for release when said ice block melts on the ant mount.